

February 1, 2013

Weekly Views

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) is gearing up to march for babies by taking part in the 2013 Wabash Valley March of Dimes campaign. Division Director Nikki Simpson noted WVCF has been a strong supporter since 1998 in the effort to improve the health of our most valuable resource, by providing baby quilts made by the PLUS unit and much needed funding. This week marked the formal launch of the campaign as the March of Dimes celebrates 75 years of service.

Superintendent Stanley Knight commends the efforts of Putnamville Correctional Facility staff and offenders for their 2012 contribution to charitable donations totaling \$6,950. Knight's 2013 community involvement objective is to increase monetary donations, expand the recipient base and engage more offenders in the process.

Miami Correctional Facility's (MCF) Recreation Department hosted two college basketball teams to play the offender all-star team. Indiana Wesleyan University's basketball team played 21 and had a three-point and half court contest. They were restricted from playing a scrimmage game because of National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics rules. Bethel College's Junior Varsity Basketball team played the all star team, and took home a win with the final score Bethel 60 and MCF 54. Both experiences were positive for the outside team and coaches as well as the offenders.

Nick Felder, Director of Admissions for Ivy Tech Valparaiso Campus, and Derek Dembrowiak, Northeast Regional Director of Admissions for Ivy Tech, visited Camp Summit to inform the GED and Post-GED students of Ivy Tech's course and program offerings, as well as obtaining financial aid, and the procedures for applying. They answered numerous questions concerning career options and college life in general. Mr. Dembrowiak also cited numerous Camp Summit success stories of previous students who have gone on to further their education at Ivy Tech.

During Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility's (PNJCF) quarterly assembly, Superintendent Linda Commons recognized staff members who achieved perfect attendance for the quarter and the year and congratulated staff who have gone the extra mile. Staff members were also recognized for their years of service with the Department. The program culminated with the recognition of Correctional Officer M. Abrams as Officer of the Quarter, maintenance staff Paul Livingstone as Non-custody Employee of the Quarter, and Sergeant Dixon as Supervisor of the Quarter. Superintendent Commons also presented Employee of the Year to Captain Vanlandingham.

The Correctional Industrial Facility's (CIF) Religious Services and Grace Community Education jointly planned and sponsored the program "Remembering: The Dream Is Still Alive" honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Pastor Demetrius Warren, the founder of Everlasting Dominion Ministries and the Senior Pastor of Everlasting Dominion Fellowship in Kokomo, IN was the guest speaker. The CIF Praise Team provided the music for the program and there was a picture anthology of the life of Dr. King. The 102 offenders who attended the program enjoyed the chance to honor Dr. King.

Twelve residents from the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) partnered with faculty, staff, and the Students In Action group from the Carpe Diem School, in response to President Obama's call for National Day of Service and honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Students In Action is a community service group dedicated to making positive and lasting changes in the community. The group made Valentines for Vets and goodie bags filled with hand-made cards, candy and meaningful messages thanking veterans and their families for the sacrifices they make to ensure our country's freedom.

Correctional Sergeant Ryan Jones from the Indiana State Prison spoke to seven classes of young adults in the ROTC program at Portage High School. There were approximately 215 children in attendance. The presentation was about the Indiana State Prison and was titled, "The choices you make today, can affect the rest of your life".

The Pendleton Correctional Facility Offender American Legion Organization conducted a program that was attended by Indiana American Legion State Commander Richard Jewell and other American Legion officials from the community. The group presented donations that were made possible by various fundraising activities at the facility. A check for \$614 was presented to the American Legion 5th District for donation to the Veterans Homeless Shelter in Lafayette, IN. Another check for \$614 was donated to the Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation and a \$500 donation was made to a local veteran to assist with expenses associated with his service dog.

The Plainfield Correctional Facility "Knit Wits" group from the offender PLUS program, lead by volunteer Donna Olsen, are continuing their donation efforts of knitted hats. The current batch was recently delivered to an orphanage in Jharsugunda, India. Past donations have been sent to Russia, Afghanistan, South America, and within the local community. The yarn used was donated and the PLUS participants are guided by Mrs. Olsen.

The Employee Planning Action Committee (EPAC) at the Westville Correctional Facility has again taken action by holding elections and nominating new officers. The retiring board members have set the standard for the EPAC, which sponsors lunch sales, fundraisers and motivating activities for the staff. The EPAC's two largest events are the Annual Holiday Dinner and Dance and the facility's Open House/Family Day. Current EPAC President, Recreation Leader Karl Gast, will pass the torch to President-Elect, Captain Otis Thompson.

Aramark Food Service Supervisor Greg Sheward, from the Pendleton Correctional Facility, received Aramark's Food Service Director of the Year award. Congratulations Greg! Pendleton and Aramark staff are proud of his accomplishments.